



WORKFORCE OBSERVATIONS

State of Wisconsin
Department of Workforce Development
Office of Economic Advisors

FOR WEST CENTRAL WISCONSIN COUNTIES BARRON, CHIPPEWA, CLARK, DUNN, EAU CLAIRE, PEPIN, PIERCE, POLK, ST. CROIX

July
2005

Unemployment unchanged in West Central Wisconsin in June

Unemployment rates dropped in three of the nine counties in West Central Wisconsin in June but the overall unemployment rate for the region did not change. The unemployment rate for the west central region in June was 4.3 percent, the same as it had been in May, but was lower than the rate from one year ago of 4.8 percent. Unemployment rates in both Chippewa and Eau Claire counties rose in June and pushed the combined

rate for the metropolitan area up to 4.7 percent from 4.3 percent in May. The metro rate in June was lower than the rate from one year earlier of 5.0 percent.

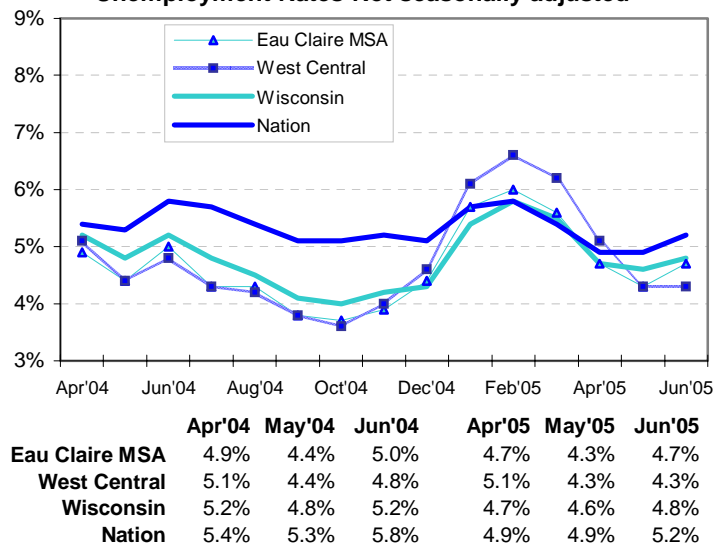
Typically in June unemployment rates rise as students enter the job market, many of them without jobs, and schools reduce payroll during summer break. School reductions mostly affect workers who are not under 12-month contracts such as cleaners, kitchen workers, bus drivers, and office

helpers. And, in fact, this occurred in many Wisconsin counties resulting in a higher unemployment rate in the state. The unadjusted Wisconsin unemployment rate in June rose to 4.8 percent from 4.6 percent in May, while the seasonally adjusted rate dropped to 4.6 percent from 4.7 percent in May.

The labor force in the west central region increased from 244,530 in May to 246,560 in June. While most of the jump occurred with the increase of 1,930 in the number of employed residents there was a slight up-tick in the number of unemployed in the region. The increase of fewer than 100 in the number of unemployed, however, did not change the unemployment rate. In June, there were 235,840 residents of the nine-county region with jobs and 10,720 residents who were unemployed and looking for a job.

The largest reduction in unemployment rate in the region and the second largest in the state occurred in Clark County. The rate dropped from 6.1 percent in May to 5.0 percent in June. The

Unemployment Rates-Not seasonally adjusted



Civilian Labor Force Estimates* for West Central Wisconsin counties: June 2005

	Barron			Chippewa			Clark			Dunn			Eau Claire Co.		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Labor force	25,943	25,308	26,446	31,090	31,090	31,720	18,094	17,767	18,262	23,214	23,864	24,008	54,525	54,287	55,765
Employed	24,753	24,134	24,972	29,508	29,540	30,058	17,189	16,680	17,279	22,188	22,892	22,908	52,086	52,142	53,057
Unemployed	1,190	1,174	1,474	1,582	1,550	1,662	905	1,087	983	1,026	972	1,100	2,439	2,145	2,708
% unemployed	4.6	4.6	5.6	5.1	5.0	5.2	5.0	6.1	5.4	4.4	4.1	4.6	4.5	4.0	4.9
	Pepin			Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			West Central region		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Labor force	4,065	3,932	4,073	23,347	23,091	23,541	23,781	23,263	24,252	42,499	41,930	42,845	246,558	244,532	250,912
Employed	3,869	3,766	3,882	22,603	22,247	22,673	22,698	22,207	22,974	40,949	40,304	41,078	235,843	233,912	238,881
Unemployed	196	166	191	744	844	868	1,083	1,056	1,278	1,550	1,626	1,767	10,715	10,620	12,031
% unemployed	4.8	4.2	4.7	3.2	3.7	3.7	4.6	4.5	5.3	3.6	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.3	4.8

* not seasonally adjusted

Industry Employment Estimates for West Central Wisconsin: June 2005

(Employment in thousands)	Barron			Clark			Dunn			Pepin		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Total Nonfarm	22.2	21.8	22.2	10.5	10.3	10.3	15.9	17.0	16.3	2.3	2.2	2.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.2	0.2	0.2
Manufacturing	5.5	5.4	5.8	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.4	2.3	2.3	0.1	0.1	0.1
Trade	3.7	3.7	3.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.5	0.5	0.5
Transportation & Utilities	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.4	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.1	0.1	0.1
Financial Activities	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1	0.1	0.1
Education & Health Services	2.7	2.6	2.6	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.7	1.6	1.6	0.3	0.3	0.3
Leisure & Hospitality	2.0	1.9	2.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	1.4	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Info/Prof. & Bus.Serv./Other	1.6	1.6	1.6	0.7	0.7	0.7	1.5	1.5	1.4	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total Government	4.6	4.6	4.5	2.1	2.0	2.1	3.6	4.7	4.1	0.6	0.5	0.5
	Pierce			Polk			St. Croix			Eau Claire MSA		
	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04	Jun '05	May '05	Jun '04
Total Nonfarm	10.8	11.4	10.6	15.4	15.2	15.3	28.5	28.0	28.2	77.7	78.6	78.2
Const/Min'g/Nat. Resources	1.0	1.0	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	2.0	1.9	1.8	3.5	3.4	3.5
Manufacturing	0.8	0.8	0.8	3.6	3.6	3.7	5.5	5.5	5.6	10.5	10.4	10.6
Trade	0.9	1.0	1.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	4.6	4.6	4.5	12.7	12.7	13.2
Transportation & Utilities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.3	1.1	1.1	1.0	3.0	3.0	2.9
Financial Activities	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.6	0.6	0.5	1.4	1.3	1.3	3.7	3.6	3.9
Education & Health Services	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	13.0	13.1	12.7
Leisure & Hospitality	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.3	3.6	3.4	3.6	7.4	7.3	7.7
Information/Prof. & Bus.Serv.	1.2	1.2	1.2	2.0	2.0	1.8	3.9	3.7	3.8	8.9	8.8	8.7
Other Services	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	3.7	3.7	3.7
Total Government	3.4	4.2	3.5	2.6	2.6	2.7	3.6	3.7	3.7	11.3	12.6	11.3

Current month preliminary. Estimates based on March 2004 benchmark. Summing from unrounded numbers.

reduction in unemployment rate this month compensates for the atypical increase in May and produced a rate lower than one year ago. Unemployment rates in June were also lower in Pierce and St. Croix counties. In Pierce County the June unemployment rate of 3.2 percent was down from 4.2 percent in May and in St. Croix the June rate of 3.6 percent was below the rate in May of 3.9 percent.

In contrast the unemployment rate in Eau Claire County increased from 4.0 percent in May to 4.5 percent in June. Typically a much greater increase occurs in the June unemployment rate in both Eau Claire and Chippewa counties that reflects the addition of new jobseekers and laid off government workers to the count of unemployed. Government employment in the Eau Claire area

metro area declined 1,300 jobs in June and was accompanied by relatively minor increases from other industry sectors. The net result was a job count that was down 900 from May and down 500 over the last twelve months. In June there were 77,700 jobs with employers in the Eau Claire metro area compared to 78,200 one year ago, the most jobs ever recorded in June.

Eau Claire County was one of 46 counties in the state with a higher unemployment rate in June. Other west central counties with rate increases were Pepin where the rate rose from 4.2 to 4.8 percent, Dunn where the rate jumped from 4.1 to 4.4 percent, Polk where the rate rose from 4.5 to 4.6 percent, and Chippewa with a rise from 5.0 to 5.1 percent. In Barron County the rate did not change from 4.6 percent.

While most counties saw a reduction in government jobs, the most significant losses occurred in counties with state universities. Government employment, which dropped by 3,245 jobs in June, will undoubtedly drop again in July as more of the summer reductions appear on payroll reports. Typically, government employment in the west central region declines by 6,600 jobs during the summer months.

Most other industry sectors added jobs during the month but not enough to compensate for the loss in government. In June there were 183,200 jobs with employers located in West Central Wisconsin, a net loss of 1,255 jobs from May and 125 fewer jobs compared with one year earlier.



Find the most current Labor Market Information at: WWW.DWD.STATE.WI.US/LMI

Direct questions and comments to: **Beverly Gehrke, Labor Market Analyst**

Hayward Job Center, 15618 Windrose Lane, Ste. 108, Hayward, Wisconsin 54843

715-634-5289 715-634-6094(FAX) e-mail: Beverly.Gehrke@dwd.state.wi.us